

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 1:18–24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.****A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

21 DECEMBER 2025

GOD WITH US

With Christmas only days away, today's Gospel announces Jesus' birth. Unlike the perhaps more familiar story from Luke's Gospel, with the annunciation by Gabriel to Mary, Matthew's focus is on Joseph, a heroic character for the Gospel's Jewish audience, reminiscent of the Old Testament patriarch, Joseph. Matthew's story is different from Luke's. In Matthew's Jewish world marriage occurred in two stages. The first was engagement; the second, cohabitation. Mary and Joseph are married according to Jewish law, though not living together. We must remember, too, that the Gospel in general and this story in particular is a *theological* narrative. Matthew is not concerned with gynaeology, but *theology*. It is about God and the Holy Spirit. Mary's pregnancy is the fruit of God's action. As this becomes known to Joseph, he wants to step out of the scene and divorce her quietly without bringing her shame—an option open to him from Jewish law.

Through an angel in a dream—reminiscent again of the Old Testament patriarch, 'the dreamer'—Joseph comes to a profound theological truth. Mary's conception is the work of God's Spirit. This is God's act. Joseph is then instructed to name the child, an important Israelite convention that incorporates the one to be born into Joseph's kinship group. Matthew concludes the scene with a second naming, now provided by the prophet Isaiah. The child will be 'Emmanuel', 'God with us', a theme that will continue throughout Matthew even to the Gospel's concluding scene on Easter day. We celebrate and affirm God 'being-with-us' this Christmas. We want this God to 'be with us' for the year ahead.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 7:10–14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the

patience of men

without trying the patience of God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,

will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Emmanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

■ **The word of the Lord.****RESP PSALM**

Ps 23:1–6. R. cf. vv. 7. 10

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **R.**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

Rom 1:1–7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

In the Pastoral Care of the AUGUSTINIANS

- ▶ Fr Luca Park OSA Parish Priest
- ▶ Fr Michael Sullivan OSA Assistant Priest
- ▶ Fr Francis Park OSA (Korean Chaplain)
- ▶ Fr Brian Buckley OSA Prior

ADMINISTRATION

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE
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OUR PARISH AND THE AUGUSTINIANS

Commit to creating an environment where the safety of children and vulnerable persons is paramount. All volunteers are required to have a Working With Children Check.

Pastoral and Administrative Support

- ▶ Stephy Coosnapa (Parish Pastoral Assistant) ▶ Joel Sanchez (Business & Facilities Manager: Wed - Fri)
- ▶ Safeguarding: Stephy Coosnapa ▶ Joel Sanchez (St Joseph's Outreach Services: Mon, Tues, Sat)
- ▶ Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary, Weddings & SJOS Volunteer Co-ordinator: Tues/Thurs/Fri)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

St. Joseph's • 10.30am Mass
 Fourth Sunday of the month.
 (except school holidays and long weekends)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Joseph's • Sat: 5.10pm – 5.40pm, or by appointment.

ANOINTING / HEALING MASS

(Sacrament of the Sick) First Tuesday of the month 10am at St Joseph's Church

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

Anyone ill or housebound may contact us to request a visit for communion at home.

Liturgical Calendar for the week commencing 21st December 2025

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Saturday 20th December	6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 21st December 4 th Sunday of Advent	10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 22nd December 4 th Week of Advent		
Tuesday 23rd December St John of Kanty	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve	10am Mass 6.00pm Family Mass 8.30pm Carols 9.00pm Night Mass	(No 12.45pm Mass) 7.00pm Family Mass
Thursday 25th December Nativity of the Lord	10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Friday 26th December St Stephen	10am Mass	NO MASS
Saturday 27th December St John, Apostle	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass	

HOLIDAY MASS TIMETABLE

Apart from New Year's Day and the usual 9am Mass on Sundays, there will be **NO WEEKDAY Masses** at St Thomas Aquinas from 26th December until Tuesday 13th January.



EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- ▶ **Christmas Supper:** after 9pm Mass 24th
- ▶ **Christmas Choir Practice:** Mon 7-9 pm

ST AUGUSTINE – THE VIRGIN MARY



“God created a Virgin whom he chose to be his mother – a woman who did not conceive according to human nature. He chose her, to be created from her. The one who came from her existed before her. He chose the mother he had created; he created the mother he had chosen”.

Christmas Offering

Envelopes are available at the church doors to offer a Christmas gift to your parish clergy on the collection plate.



CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE

Monday 22nd December
 7-9pm at St Joseph's.
 All welcome.



TIME CAPSULE PROJECT 2025

To commemorate the Jubilee Year. We invite you to make a creative suggestion to capture our era. Time is ticking down!



MASS COLLECTIONS 14/12/2025

Clergy (Augustinian Community)
 1st Collection, CDF & bank deposits... \$ 693.25
Church (Parish Ministries)
 2nd Collection \$ 369.10
 Envelopes..... \$ 260.00
 Direct Debit/EFT/ CDF Pay/ Cr Cards...\$ 510.00.
 Tap Point Terminals..... \$ 395.00
Thank you for your generosity

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Ellen Allery, Gaston Gori, Margaret Wallin, June Cochrane, Anne Rigg, Mitos Gloudemans, Ced John Netto, Julie Mahony, Paul Chong, Isabella Chong, Thomas Bedier, Luke Dennis, Sonia Guzman, Damien Ryan, Cecil D'Cruz, Joanna Howe, Janine Forster, Christie De Silva, Anita Zaio, Maurice & Pauline Sheehan, Rosie Gucciardo, Nichole Garnaut, Enid Netto, David Mills, Andrea Dreher., Greg Sutton.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will close on Tuesday 23rd Dec.5pm and reopen on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 9am. If you have any urgent matters that need attending to please contact one of the Augustinian Priests at the Priory – Tel. 98274689



AUGUSTINIAN MAGAZINE SUMMER ISSUE

Please pick up and take your copy of the Augustinian Magazine from the front porch of the church. The Augustinians have served in our parish for 50 years.

THE SCRIBBLE SUMMER EDITION OUT NOW

Please take your copy of the parish seasonal newsletter today.

CHRISTMAS EVE SUPPER

Please bring a plate of sweet or savoury food to share on 24th December after the 9 pm mass to celebrate Christmas with the Parish Community.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Recently Deceased
 ✦ Rosalyn Cotter

Anniversaries
 ✦ Fr John Barry OSA ✦ Eileen Bramich
 ✦ Steffi Pantea ✦ Victor Castellano
 ✦ Vera Makaling ✦ Joyce Dennis
 ✦ Franco & Maria & Mario Carbone

WELCOME FR TONY BANKS OSA

We extend a warm welcome to Fr Tony Banks OSA who recently returned from Rome and will be with us for the next few weeks.

2025 CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE IN CONJUNCTION WITH SJOS

This year we are again collecting food gifts and money or vouchers for the food store visitors. When you place your gift or shopping voucher in the basket under the tree, please take a gift card and hang it on the tree. The gifts will be collected after each mass for distribution through the SJOS food store.

